Zonta Australia
Zonta Says NOW Think Tank
OCTOBER UPDATE

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Racing to the year's end



I has been a busy month for Zonta Says NOW locally and internationally and it is about to get a whole lot busier as we race towards the end of the year.

On October 11 hundreds of Zontians celebrated the Day of the Girl Child by sending video messages of hope showing cards that 'flip the narrative'. At our October Think Tank we were intrigued to hear more from climate advocate Anjali Sharma and marvelled at her courage and resilience.

Behind the scenes, an international Fact Sheet on women's economic opportunity in the context of climate change has been finalised. Also, the winner of District 23's Women Taking Climate Action Award will soon be announced.

In this Update we share some insights into the the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa and provide some ideas for promoting the climate justice message as part of your Zonta Says NO activities during the 16 Days of Activism. Our next Australian Think Tank will be on Saturday 14 December.

And of course, before the end of the year there is the Biodiversity COP in Colombia, the Climate COP in Azerbaijan, the Desertification COP in Saudi Arabia, and the finalisation of the Plastics Treaty in Korea...so much is happening!

Until next month, keep breathing, keep smiling and have fun!

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Postcard from Samoa



Things may look idyllic in the photo, but Pacific islands are facing the 'triple whammy' of sea level rise, ocean warming and acidification.

At the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa, Pacific Island nations were laser focused on climate change - with Tuvalu's Prime Minister describing Australia's fossil fuel expansions as a 'death sentence' for his country. How would it feel to face the countries suffering the most from climate change when your own country's large carbon footprint is getting bigger with many new fossil fuel projects in the pipeline?

On the positive side, two key agreements came out of the meeting:

- Australia and the UK agreed to team up to accelerate green hydrogen and renewable energy technologies; and
- Australia and Samoa signed a bilateral partnership arrangement to strengthen cooperation in five priority areas including climate and disaster resilience, and gender equality.

Australia hopes to partner with Pacific nations to host a Climate COP in 2026. They will find out if they are successful at the Climate COP29 in Azerbaijan in November.

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Anjali Sharma - Call of Duty



If you missed the October Think Tank, you missed a treat.

We were so privileged to have Anjali Sharma as our guest speaker. Anjali is 20 years old. At 12 she started her climate journey, and at 14 she organised school climate strikes. She described how she was born in India and came to Australia as a baby. She returns to India often to visit extended family and has been moved by the climate impacts hitting India including deadly heatwaves and floods.

At 16, she became the lead litigant of Sharma vs Environment Minister, a class action legal case which argued that the Environment Minister owes all young people a duty of care to protect them from the impacts of climate change. In 2021, she was successful, but following an appeal from the Minister, this ruling was overturned.

However, Anjali continued the campaign, by calling to have this duty legislated through Federal Parliament. Anjali's actions featured in the ABC's Australian Story in March 2024.

In June, the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee recommended that the Climate Change Amendment (Duty of Care and Intergenerational Climate Equity) Bill 2023 not be passed and that the Australian Human Rights Commission's Child Rights Impact Assessment Tool be used to assist in policy and decision making.

Anjali explained that an Assessment Tool has no teeth. We need some form of legislation to keep politicians on track. The Bill is not dead as it has not been voted on in Parliament. This gives Anjali and her team a window of opportunity to talk to as many parliamentarians as possible to get them behind the Bill. This is an issue that you can raise with your own Federal member. How do they see the rights of future generations being protected?

Please enjoy the video of Anjali's talk.

Video of October Think Tank

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Climate Change and Violence



How climate change contributes to violence against women

Zonta Says NOW, 2024

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence 25 November to 10 December

Graphics from UN Women:

November is a time when we focus on ending violence against women.

Last year, the Intercontinental Think Tank gave this presentation that showed how climate change contributes to violence against women. The slides have hyperlinks to all of the source information, and useful notes. The presentation will be a useful resource to anyone starting out on their climate justice journey.

The Zonta Says NO to violence against women campaign has many resources to help you plan events. The last newsletter from Zonta International advertised these two events - so register now!

- 12 November Ending Child Marriage webinar
- 10 December Zonta Says NO online summit

Also, UN Women is promoting its Safe. Everywhere. Always. fundraiser that has some useful materials about violence against women.

So get out your orange T-shirt and stand up for a world without violence.

Register for the Zonta International Events here

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Every Member, Every November



November is the month when every member is encouraged to give a 'boost' to the Zonta Foundation for Women.

This young girl could be a potential Amelia Earhart Fellow, or will she be a Zonta Women in STEM Awardee? What about a Zonta Women in Business Leadership Awardee? Perhaps we'll start her on her journey by encouraging her to apply for the Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award...

Through Zonta's Education Awards, we help women and girls to 'take off' in their careers.

Please give generously to the Foundation, so that we can build a better world for more women and girls

Donate to the Zonta Foundation for Women

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